

Ghost spoke to them from heaven again, saying "Separate me Barnabas and Paul to the work whereunto I have called them." God sent them out and in the midst of great success he said stop. They started in another direction, and again he said stop. We can imagine the apostles drooping to their knees and saying Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Puzzled they awaited another revelation from God. In the maze of doubt and uncertainty, Paul saw the beckoning hand from Macedonia, and heard the voice from heaven, saying, "Come over and help us." And for the first time he got hold of the great thought of God. If under the blaze of the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the apostles were so slow to grasp the plan of God, I would despair of the church in this 19th century being awakened to her duty if I did not know that Jesus Christ was the same today, having all power in heaven and on earth.

We as a church, have never tried to carry out this command of God. I will use one little denomination to illustrate what we can do when once we try to solve this problem. Take the Moravians, with a membership of twenty thousand, give two hundred and forty thousand dollars annually to foreign missions, an average of twelve dollars per member. One in seventy of their membership is a foreign missionary. Other denominations, one in six thousand. And we not a single one, and yet as a church are richer in this world's goods than they. Brethren, they who care nothing for the salvation of the foreigner, care nothing for their own souls. The faith of Christ is love for the whole world. Water gathers in heaps when it is at the freezing point, so does the church. I am persuaded that some of our large churches are at the freezing point. If the rays of the Son of Righteousness would fall on them, they begin to spread.

There is no congregation so small or weak that it can afford to pass missions by. The neglect of foreign missions is the cause of spiritual and financial poverty. Self extension re-acts to promote self support. Dr. Sterns raised last year four thousand dollars for foreign missions from a congregation of two hundred members, none of whom are rich. Brethren, our shallow excuses are shamed into silence when our eyes are opened by the history of missions. Not since the Lord gave the great commission has there been so many open doors to mission work, and our responsibility has been increased accordingly. God has thrown down the walls of China, Japan, Africa, islands of the sea, etc. God has opened the gates and made the Protestant nation worth seventy millions of dollars, and yet we stand with folded hands and say we are too poor to enter the field. In one century the disciples did more toward the evangelization of the world, than has been done in the past eighteen hundred years. Now look at a few of our advantages; we have more wealth, more learning, larger number to begin with, better conveyances, and less opposition, and the promise

of the same power. Hence with our opportunities we ought to be able to do much more than they. Brethren, let us seek God for power from on high, that we may be enlarged and possess God's thought.

MISSIONARY CONVENTION AT ENON.

The Bible School of two weeks was a splendid preparatory meeting for the Missionary Convention a week and a half later. They both were a decided success. Deep spirituality characterized every meeting. Bro. Bowman and Bro. Talley were here at the latter. The attendance was good from the very beginning and increased every service. Bro. Bowman preached the "higher life," a life of absolute surrender to God and reliance on the Holy Spirit. And his work was well supplemented by Bro. Talley's. A spirit of missionary inquiry was aroused. No "begging" was done. An appeal was made for the people to give what they wanted to. They were urged to give cheerfully or not at all. In pledges and cash \$217. was raised. We praise God for the good weather and the splendid teaching we received on this neglected subject,—missions. May He be glorified in many hearts. Such meetings should be held in every congregation. They are spiritual and tend to arouse sleeping energies. I trust they will be held in other districts as well as in Illiokota. Our district has been richly blessed by them. Hudson dismissed service on Sunday and came over in large numbers. Their pastor, Bro. Hildebrand, was present Sunday and spoke on "The Indwelling Christ." He should be wholly in the work. Time is too precious and life is too short and the need too urgent for any of our ministers to be only partially engaged in the work. May God bless our beloved brotherhood by a spirit of consecration and sanctification.

J. L. GILLIN.

Our Bible School

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

J. L. GILLIN

CHARACTER STUDIES—GIDEON

I. Biography.

- a. A descendant of Joseph, Judges 6:11; Josh. 17:2.
- b. Called of God to deliver Israel from the Midianites, Judges 6:12-16.
- c. His doubt concerning the call, Judges 6:17, 36, 37.
- d. Destroys Baal's altar and grove and sacrifices the sacred bullock, Judges 6:25-27.
- e. His army reduced in size, Judges 7:27.
- f. His strategem, Judges 7:16.
- g. Subdues the Midianites, Judges 7:19-21.
- h. Refuses to take God's place as their king, Judges 8:23.

II. Life Lessons.

- a. Obedience to God leads to war with idolaters.

b. God always satisfies an honest doubter, Judges 6:36-40; John 20:24-28.

c. God wants no cowards in his army, Jer. 1:17-19.

d. Faith in God and obedience makes them victorious without a sword.

e. Things for use in the conflict with sin, Judges 7:16-18: (1) Strategem, Matt. 10:16; Luke 16:8. (2) The torch of truth. (3) God's ram's horns of fearless truth. (4) A cry, "The sword of the Lord of Gideon."

SERMON IN QUAIN TEXTS

Text:—And as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. Luke 4:17.

There is a practical as well as beautiful thought connected with this statement that Jesus went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. Note that he did not merely *happen* to drop in as the manner of some is, but as his *custom* was. Jesus is our teacher and our example, and from childhood he had been taught to attend divine services on the Sabbath. Here is a good lesson for young people. They should begin to attend the sanctuary very young in life, for the habit thus formed will remain with them always. If we make it our custom to remain away from the sanctuary when we are young, we will be very apt to keep up the custom all thro life. Church going is very largely a habit, tho it ought to be looked upon as a duty and a privilege, for a privilege it really is. If we make it our custom to go to church regularly and take part in the services, song and prayer, our lives will be brought under the influence of divine teaching and divine grace. The reading of the Word, the singing of sacred song, the prayer of consecrated hearts, these will have an influence on our hearts and lives for good. It will help us in time of temptation, it will help keep our hearts pure, keep our affections on spiritual things, and thus develop a Christ-like character. We hope all the young people will study and imitate this beautiful example of Jesus.

Text: And behold men brought in a bed a man which was taken with palsy. Luke 5:18.

Here is a good lesson for those who are strong in the Lord. They ought to help the weak, and especially should they help them to Christ. This man could not have come to Christ without these friends. One man could not have brought him and it would have been hard for two men, but four men could carry him easily. There are men who must be carried to Jesus, not literally, but in a spiritual sense. We can carry them to the Lord in the arms of faith and prayer; we can go to the Lord's house and in prayer take our unconverted friends with us and present their case to the Lord. Many a mother has taken her wayward son or daughter to the Lord in the arms of prayer; wives have taken their husbands to the Lord in prayer and the Lord has received them and given them back different men. There is large room in this world for the spirit of helpfulness. There are so many seemingly helpless peo-